

The Story of Shah Ismail Shaheed: A Life Lived for Allah Alone

Islamic Stories - Volume 25

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Chapter 1: The Depth of Sincerity

The Pulpit at Delhi: A Sermon of Purpose

One day, Shah Ismail Shaheed delivered a sermon at the Jama Masjid of Delhi.

The address extended for nearly one and a half to two hours.

Upon its conclusion, as he descended the mosque's staircase, a man entered the mosque in haste.

Approaching him, the man inquired whether Maulvi Ismail Sahib had completed his sermon.

A Seeker's Disappointment:

Unidentified Man:

"Has Maulvi Ismail Sahib's sermon ended?"

Shah Ismail Shaheed:

"Yes, brother, it has ended."

The man expressed his regret, stating that he had travelled from a distant village with the specific intention of listening to the sermon.

The Distance Travelled:

Unidentified Man:

"I am deeply disappointed. I came from a far-off village to hear the sermon. It is unfortunate that it has already concluded. My journey seems to have gone in vain."

On hearing this, Shah Ismail Shaheed asked the name of the village he had come from and then offered a gesture of remarkable humility and sincerity.

Repeating the Sermon: A Testament to Sincerity

He asked the man not to worry and invited him to sit beside him on the stairs of the mosque.

Informing him that he himself was Ismail, the very preacher the man had sought, he kindly offered to repeat the entire sermon for him alone.

Seated upon the mosque steps, Shah Ismail Shaheed recited his entire sermon again, word for word.

Later, someone remarked upon the exceptional nature of this act, noting that the entire sermon had been repeated for just one individual.

The Value of One Listener:

Unidentified Man:

"Hazrat! What an extraordinary act—to repeat the entire sermon for the sake of just one man!"

Shah Ismail Shaheed:

"I delivered the sermon earlier for only one being—Allah—and I repeated it again for the same One. This crowd holds no real value. Both times, the sermon was only for the sake of Allah."